Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims of this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format; and

determining a destination service node message format for the requesting service node message based on a version of the destination service node, wherein determining further comprises:

requesting the version of the destination service node from the destination service node;

receiving the version of the destination service node at the inter-operability service;

determining whether the version of the destination service node is known at the inter-operability service;

converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is known at the inter-operability service;

updating the version of the destination service node to a most current version at the inter-operability service responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is unknown at the inter-operability service;

converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the most current version at the inter-operability service to provide the requesting service node message in the destination service node message format; and

transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service; and

transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the version of the requesting service node is newer or older than the version of the destination service node.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the inter-operability service comprises an administrative service available to the requesting service node.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein the requesting service node comprises an intermediate service node, the inter-operability service comprises a first inter-operability service, and the requesting service node message comprises an originating service node message, wherein transmitting a requesting service node message is preceded by:

determining that the version of the destination service node is unknown at a second inter-operability service associated with the originating service node;

determining that the version of the originating service node and the version of the destination service node are known at the first inter-operability service; and

transmitting the originating service node message from the originating service node to the intermediate service node.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) A method of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format;

determining a version of the destination service node; and

updating the version of the destination service node at the inter-operability service based on the determined version of the destination service node wherein determining a version of the destination service node comprises:

determining whether the version of the destination service node is known by the inter-operability service;

setting the version of the destination service node to a most current version to provide a present version responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is unknown by the inter-operability service;

transmitting a command to the destination service node using the present version;

modifying the present version of the destination service node to a less current version responsive to an exception on transmitting the command using the present version and transmitting the command using the less current version as the present version; and

updating the version of the destination service node to be the present version responsive to no exception.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) ~~A method according to Claim 11~~ A method of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format;

determining a version of the destination service node; and

updating the version of the destination service node at the inter-operability service based on the determined version of the destination service node wherein determining a version of the destination service node comprises:

determining whether the version of the destination service node is known by the inter-operability service;

setting a present version of the destination service node to the determined version of the destination service node;

transmitting a command to the destination service node using the present version;

modifying the present version of the destination service node to a more current version responsive to an exception on transmitting the command using the present version and transmitting the command using the more current version as the present version; and

updating the version of the destination service node to be the present version responsive to no exception.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim 11 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) A system of communicating between service nodes in a service grid comprising:

means for transmitting a requesting service node message from a requesting service node in a service grid directed to a destination service node in the service grid, the requesting service node message having a requesting service node message format associated with a version of the requesting service node;

means for receiving the requesting service node message at an inter-operability service in the requesting service node message format; and

means for determining a destination service node message format for the requesting service node message based on a version of the destination service node, wherein the means for determining further comprises:

means for requesting the version of the destination service node from the destination service node;

means for receiving the version of the destination service node at the inter-operability service;

means for determining whether the version of the destination service node is known at the inter-operability service;

means for converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is known at the inter-operability service;

means for updating the version of the destination service node to a most current version at the inter-operability service responsive to determining that the version of the destination service node is unknown at the inter-operability service;

means for converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the most current version at the inter-operability service to provide the requesting service node message in the destination service node message format; and

means for transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

19. (Original) A system according to Claim 18 further comprising:

means for converting the requesting service node message from the requesting service node message format to the destination service node message format at the inter-operability service; and

means for transmitting the requesting service node message from the inter-operability service to the destination service node in the destination service node message format.

20. (Original) A system according to Claim 18 wherein the version of the requesting service node is newer or older than the version of the destination service node.

21. (Original) A system according to Claim 18 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Canceled).

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (New) A method according to Claim 13 wherein the inter-operability service comprises a web service available to the requesting service node and the destination service node.